

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS.

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JUNE, 1922. Fine at first, then cool and unsettled.

The warm sunny weather which had characterised the latter end of May persisted until about the middle of the month, when cool and unsettled weather, associated with a series of depressions approaching the British Isles from the Atlantic, set in.

On the 1st, the British Isles were in a "flat area" of high pressure. Fine hot weather was experienced almost everywhere, maxima above 80°F. being recorded at many stations. In the north-east of Scotland, however, the 1st was the coldest day of the month. The maximum at Aberdeen was only 51°F. as compared with 84°F. at Ruthwell (Dumfries-shire). On the 2nd, a trough of low pressure extending from Iceland to France moved eastwards and developed two minima, one south-east of Iceland (which later developed a definite centre and became deeper) the other over Holland. At the same time the anti-cyclone off the south-west coast of the British Isles spread north-eastwards and a cool north-westerly current flooded the country: the contrast in the temperature on the two days was notable, at Birr Castle for example the maximum was 58°F. on the 2nd, as against 78°F. on the 1st. Thunderstorms occurred in a few places.

The Icelandic depression remained almost stationary until the 5th during which time it gradually filled up. Further south the Azores anticyclone extended slowly in a north-easterly direction and finer and warmer weather prevailed up to the 8th. On the 8th a shallow depression over France spread north giving a definite if weak cyclonic circulation over England on the 9th. The weather was dull to fair over the British Isles except in the extreme north of Scotland where it remained overcast. The rainfall associated with this depression was remarkably small, but thunderstorms were experienced at Roches Point and Birr in south-west Ireland.

Except for isolated showers of heavy rain or hail in some parts of southern England, weather conditions improved on the 10th, and with the extension in a north-easterly direction of the Azores anticyclone, the weather over the British Isles on the 11th and 12th was fair, except in the north of Scotland, where on the latter date dull conditions prevailed. During the night of the 12th there was rain over all the northern counties. In Berwickshire the rainfall represented about one-third of the aggregate for the month.

By the morning of the 13th the High was established off the west coast of Ireland and a trough of low pressure extended over the North Sea and Central Europe, so that the whole of western Europe was flooded with air drawn from Polar regions. The maximum temperature at Kew Observatory was 76°F. on the 12th but only 53°F. on the 14th. On the morning of the 14th, the High was situated over the North Sea and a shallow trough extended over Ireland. The weather was generally cool with occasional rain in most districts. From the 16th to the 21st a High over the Azores and a succession of depressions passing east over Ireland gave a westerly type of cool, unsettled weather.

On the 21st the Azores High had moved further east, and higher temperatures and fine weather were experienced in southern England, though some showers occurred locally. A depression which appeared on the morning of the 22nd off the Hebrides moved slowly across Scotland and reached Denmark by the morning of the 26th; then it

went slowly northwards, being centered in the north of Norway at the end of the month. The last week of the month was marked by the passage of a series of secondary disturbances across the British Isles, the weather everywhere being cold, changeable and unsettled. Dull wet weather alternated with occasional brighter periods. The following notes from Observers illustrate some of the characteristic features of the month's weather:—

Dublin City.—A disappointing month. Clouds, squalls, low temperatures, and showers belied the fair promise of the opening day. *Hodsock.*—Another dry month: Bright and warm at first, the second half, dull and cool. *Southport.*—The earlier half of the month was generally calm, dry, and brilliantly fine, with diurnal land and sea breezes constantly in evidence. The latter half was exceptionally stormy, with much cloud and rain. For the entire month, the normal duration of west winds was nearly doubled, while east ones (so common here in June) were almost absent.

Air Pressure.—On the average pressure was below the normal in the north of England and in Scotland. Elsewhere it was about normal. The gradient was for winds between west and north-west. The highest reading recorded during the month was 1029mb. at Valencia and the lowest 994mb. at Lerwick, Aberdeen, and Leuchars. The departure from the normal of the monthly means of pressure varied from +2.7mb. at Valencia to -3.2mb. at Stornoway.

Temperature.—The mean temperature for the month was below normal over north-west England, Scotland, and Ireland, and slightly above normal elsewhere. The departure of the monthly means from the normal varied from +1.1°F. in England north-east to -1.4°F. in Scotland north. The remarkable oscillations of temperature from day to day have been mentioned already. The most noteworthy was the sudden fall in temperature which occurred at most stations on the 13th. At several stations the difference between the maximum temperature on the 12th and on the 13th exceeded 15°F.

Precipitation.—The month's rainfall was generally below the average, considerable areas in the southern half of Ireland and the centre of England receiving less than half the average. Rainfall above the normal occurred mainly in the western highlands of Scotland. Less than 25mm. for the month was recorded over a band from Sidmouth to Hull, including the greater part of the Midlands. In the English Lake District and in Inverness-shire falls of about 250mm. were recorded locally. In Ireland the fall was generally between 25 and 50mm. exceeding that amount in the west and north.

Sunshine.—The duration of sunshine did not depart to any large extent from the normal. The deviation from the normal varied from +1.1 hours in England north-east to -1.4 hours in Scotland north.

Optical Phenomena.—Solar halos were observed on several occasions in different parts of the country. An exceptionally fine pair of rainbows on the 29th was reported by the observer at Hastings. Both primary and secondary bows were well defined. The former showed supernumerary bands, two red and two green, which reached their greatest development at the crown of the arch.

NOTE:—The article by Mr. R. A. Watson in the *Meteorological Magazine* for July has been utilised in the preparation of this summary.